

reflecting the other of the optical channels back through the switch  
via the second arm; and

dropping said at least one of the optical channel from said first arm  
of the second polarization splitter.

44. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein the dropping step comprises the  
substep of:

passing the at least one of the optical channels to another acousto-  
optical switch for addition to a different plurality of optical channels.

#### REMARKS

The claims have been amended to conform them to U.S. practice. Claims 23-44  
are pending in this application. No new matter has been added.

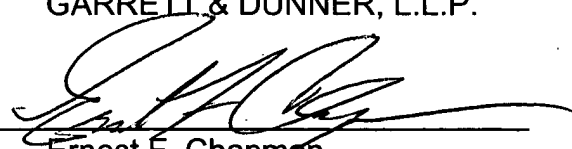
The title has been amended to conform it to the title as amended by the  
International Searching Authority. The International Searching Authority also amended  
the Abstract as shown on the enclosed cover page of the printed publication of WO  
00/39629.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary  
Amendment, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated:

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**APPENDIX TO PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT FILED HEREWITH**

Amendments to the Specification

Page 1, lines 1 and 2, change [ADD/DROP MULTIPLEXER WITH LINE IN  
REFLECTION AND WAVELENGTH SELECTIVE OPTICAL CROSS-CONNECT] to  
--ACOUSTO-OPTICAL DEVICE--

09/868874

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